

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 40-43. No other amendments to the claims are requested at this time.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A soluble peptide made by solid phase synthesis comprising all or a fragment or variant of a regulatory virus protein R (Vpr) of the human immunodeficiency virus type 1(HIV-1) (SEQ ID NO: 1), wherein the fragment or variant thereto consists of a peptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a 20 amino acid Vpr protein (*s*Vpr¹⁻²⁰ or *s*Vpr²¹⁻⁴⁰; SEQ ID NO: 8 and 9, respectively);
- (b) a 47 amino acid N-terminal peptide (*s*Vpr¹⁻⁴⁷; SEQ ID NO: 2);
- (c) a 49 amino acid long C-terminal peptide (*s*Vpr⁴⁸⁻⁹⁶; SEQ ID NO: 3);
- (d) *s*Vpr¹¹⁻²⁵ (SEQ ID NO: 4); or
- (e) *s*Vpr⁴⁶⁻⁶¹ (SEQ ID NO: 6).

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The synthetic peptide of claim 31, consisting of *s*Vpr¹⁻⁹⁶ (SEQ ID NO: 1).

33. (CANCELLED)

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The synthetic peptide of claim 31 bound to a second molecule, wherein the second molecule comprises a DNA or protein molecule.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The synthetic peptide of claim 32 bound to a second molecule, wherein the second molecule comprises a DNA or protein molecule.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition comprising the synthetic peptide of claim 31 and a carrier.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition comprising the synthetic peptide of claim 32 and a carrier.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition comprising the synthetic peptide of claim 34 and a carrier.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition comprising the synthetic peptide of claim 35 and a carrier.

40.-43. (CANCELLED)

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A biological assay product comprising a synthetic peptide of claim 31 immobilized on a substrate.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A biological assay product comprising a peptide of claim 32 immobilized on a substrate.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The biological assay product of claim 44, wherein the substrate comprises an ELISA carrier surface.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The biological assay product of claim 45, wherein the substrate comprises an ELISA carrier surface.